

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Jacobs Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Jacobs Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South Second Street on campus of Kentucky School

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN for the Deaf

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Danville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Boyle

021

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP☒ PUBLIC

— PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE☒ YES, RESTRICTED

— YES, UNRESTRICTED

— NO

PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— EDUCATIONAL

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— MILITARY

— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Kentucky State Board of Education

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Boyle County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Danville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED minor

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Jacobs Hall stands on the western side of South Second Street (just south of its intersection with Green Street) near the center of the campus of the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville. Of the 18 buildings on the 175-acre campus, Jacobs Hall is the oldest extant. Only two other pre-date the 20th century. Jacobs Hall is bordered on the north, east (front), and south by lawn areas, and on the west (rear) by a hard-topped parking area.

Jacobs Hall was begun in 1855 and completed two years later; the architect was Thomas Lewinski (about whom little information is available) and the builder John McMurtry. The brick building, approximately 120 feet wide and 80 feet deep, is four stories high above a full basement. The center three bays of the nine-bay front (east) elevation project to form a pavilion with one-story entrance portico supported on brick piers. On the ground floor of all four elevations, projecting piers alternate with flush panels containing square-headed 6/6 windows. A broad stone beltcourse divides the first and second stories. Above the beltcourse, pilasters with simple capitals divide panels containing square-headed windows on the second and third floors, round-arched on the fourth. The boldly projecting cornice at the roof line is supported on carved wooden brackets and shaped above the front pavilion to suggest a triangular pediment. At the center of the low hipped roof is a two-story octagonal wooden cupola set with round-arched windows and capped by a pike finial. At the center of the rear elevation is a one-story wooden porch supported on square posts with inset panels.

Few changes have been made in the exterior of Jacobs Hall. New concrete steps have replaced the original stone at the front entrance. A metal fire escape has been added to the southern elevation. A one-story hip-roofed addition in brick has been constructed at the southern end of the rear (west) elevation. Both the first-story piers and the stone beltcourse have been painted white.

Though more substantial alterations have been made on the interior, its original character is still evident. Ceiling heights begin at 15 feet on the first floor and decrease one foot with each succeeding floor. The center hall is set with five arches on the first floor, one less arch on each succeeding floor. Other original elements include molded door and window surrounds, tin ceilings, wooden mantels, and marble hearths. The outstanding interior feature of the building is the main hall with curving staircase which is open to the skylight in the cupola above. Interior alterations include the installation of baths to serve individual guestrooms and the modernization of much of the third floor as a superintendent's residence and reception area.

At the present time (1975), Jacobs Hall is in only fair condition. A structural survey completed late in 1974 indicated that the following work is necessary: modernization and expansion of the electrical systems; replacement of fascia and soffit material and repair or replacement of cornice brackets; repair of pilaster capitals, beltcourse, and cupola, cleaning and repainting of all exterior woodwork; cleaning and tuckpoint of all brickwork; re-roofing of the front portico; foundation repair and replacement of some stone paving on the rear porch.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1857	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Architect: Thomas Lewinski Builder: John McMurtry
----------------	------	-------------------	--

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kentucky School for the Deaf, established at Danville in 1823, was the first publicly supported institution for the education of the deaf in the United States. Jacobs Hall, the oldest surviving building at the school, is still in active use. The four-story brick building with Italiante detailing was constructed in 1855-57 and until 1882 housed all of the school's major functions. Although some interior changes have been made, the exterior of Jacobs Hall remains virtually unaltered.

Historical Background

Formal education of the deaf began in the United States on April 15, 1817, when Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet opened the American Asylum at Hartford, Connecticut. Gallaudet's institution was privately financed, as were similar schools opened in New York in 1818 and in Philadelphia in 1820. The first such institution in this country to be publicly supported was the Kentucky School for the Deaf, established in 1823.

The legislative act creating the Kentucky School for the Deaf was passed on December 7, 1822, and the school opened in a frame building near the center of Danville the following month. The first students were accepted in April 1823, and enrollment reached 17 by the end of the year. On January 28, 1826, the school moved to the original section of its present campus, occupying a two-story brick building already standing on that 10-acre tract. The first building constructed specifically for school purposes was begun in 1835.

The need for expanded facilities led to the construction, in 1855-57, of Jacobs Hall, a four-story brick building with Italiante detailing, designed by Lewinski. Construction costs were paid with funds obtained from the sale of public lands granted to the school by Congress in 1826 and from donations by individuals including John Quincy Adams and Martin Van Buren. The site, adjacent to the school's first 10-acre tract, was owned by J.A. Jacobs, then superintendent of the institution and the man for whom the new building was named. The land was purchased from Jacobs in 1856. From the time of its completion until 1882, Jacobs Hall housed all of the school's major functions.

Today the Kentucky School for the Deaf has an enrollment of some 400 students with a teaching staff of 65. The 175-acre campus contains 18 buildings, all but 3 of which date from the 20th century. Jacobs Hall, the oldest surviving building on the campus, is still in active use in several capacities: administrative offices, superintendent's residence and guest quarters; school post office; auditorium, carpenter's and painter's shops; storage; and others. Visitors are accommodated at the superintendent's office on the first floor but are not generally admitted to the upper floors of the building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cubberley, Ellwood P. Public Education in the United States (revised edition, Boston, 1934).

Fosdick, Charles P. A Centennial History of the Kentucky School for the Deaf, Danville, Kentucky, 1823-1923 (Office of the Kentucky Standard, N.D.).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 696600 4168170
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the national historic landmark designation for Jacobs Hall of the Kentucky School for the Deaf, Danville, as shown in red on the accompanying campus map, follow the interior line of the network of walkways immediately surrounding that building.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by Frank B. Sarles, Historian 9/16/60

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Survey, NPS

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street NW

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/8/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)